

**EQUIPPING THE CHURCH
TRANSFORMING THE CITY
IMPACTING THE WORLD**

THE CONTINUING VISION OF REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Dear Friends,

In the summer of 2002 *project San Antonio* was launched by the Southwest Church Planting Network of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). From the start of this initiative we envisioned the formation of an anchor church committed to touching the city of San Antonio and the whole of South Texas with the ancient and transforming message of the Gospel. Redeemer Presbyterian is that church. Though we have only begun the adventure set before us, God has already significantly blessed our Kingdom-extending efforts. Consider the following ministry milestones:

- New congregation of the PCA with almost 300 members
- Numerous individuals who have professed new faith in the Lord Jesus
- Kingdom-extending initiatives on San Antonio's near west side, including \$140,000 in donated food for Redeemer's Christmas Baskets and countless volunteer hours spent sowing the seeds of the Gospel
- Establishment of Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at Trinity University
- Vibrant and authentic community among Redeemer's membership fueled by Gospel-awakened worship and community groups meeting all over San Antonio
- Children's, youth, men's and women's ministries that challenge individuals in the core truths of Gospel transformation

Even so, there is so much more to be done. In the words of our Savior, "the fields are white unto harvest." Therefore, as a church with a Gospel center and a missional focus, we must look outward to reach both the unchurched and those disenfranchised by the church. Our statement of purpose remains:

By God's grace and all for His glory, Redeemer Presbyterian Church exists to worship God's greatness, grow in Gospel freedom and extend God's Kingdom in San Antonio and beyond.

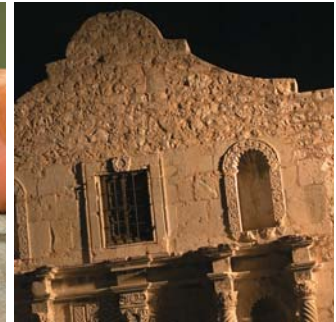
Jesus' incarnational and sacrificial love is the fountain of grace that drives everything we do. It has never been more important for us to understand our vision clearly so that we can strategically engage all of the people and places of the wonderful home we call San Antonio.

The purpose of this document is to help you better understand and participate in this great, Gospel adventure, which we hope will transform our city and her citizens for generations to come.

Welcome to the Journey!



Tom



PRINCIPLES OF GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION

Redeemer recognizes the continual necessity of inculcating the principles of Gospel Transformation throughout the entire life of the church so that every ministry area and every member is led in a life of joyful Gospel dependence and outward missional engagement. Our seven core values are the “DNA” that shapes Redeemer’s particular ministry strategies and what we desire for our membership. Everything starts here!

1) **GOD IS AT WORK FOR HIS GLORY** Our great hope is to be a God-centered church, captivated by God’s final pursuit—Himself. Ironically, in pursuing His glory our greatest joy is found. As a result, our confidence is

not in ourselves, but in His work. God is always going ahead, behind and alongside of his people. The Church is first and foremost His great work. Our calling is to participate in what He is already doing.

2) **GOD’S TRUTH** The Bible is more than a guide-book; it is a living authority, shaping our preaching and teaching and making application to everyday life. It is through the Scripture that God changes the hearts of the unconvinced and matures those already in Christ. Therefore, the Bible, not pragmatism, personalities, marketing techniques, or programs, drives and develops ministry.

Likewise, the Bible shapes our theological identity. We use creeds and confessions not to replace Scripture, but to link us to the rich, biblical heritage of our Reformation roots. The congregation of Redeemer is encouraged to think about and study God's truth as it is revealed in the Scripture using books, confessions, creeds and other resources as tools for deeper, clearer understanding.

3) **GOSPEL FREEDOM** The Gospel's message of grace—that sinners are forgiven and restored by God through the work of Jesus Christ—is not only that which brings us into relationship with God, but also that which grows us to maturity. Grace frees us from the dual temptations of despair in failure and self-centered pride in success. As Tim Keller states, “The Gospel is that you are more sinful and flawed than you ever dared believe, yet you can be more accepted and loved than you ever dared hope at the same time because Jesus Christ lived and died in your place. Salvation is of the Lord.” In other words, the engine of the Christian life is the “Gospel of Grace,” transforming all whom it touches. This Gospel Freedom is our central message, and the driving force behind our evangelism, growth, and service.

4) **TRUE AND VIBRANT WORSHIP** Worship is at the core of our humanity. We were created to “glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.” Our tendency, however, is to look elsewhere for our joy and happiness. Christian worship exists to turn us away from the trivial and artificial objects of worship which have captivated our hearts and return us to the person of true worship—The Living God.

5) **THE CHURCH—ITS PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY** The Christian faith is not something lived out in isolation but in the context of the Church. Redeemer is both an organization of people and a living organism or community

called the body of Christ. For this reason, we value the People of the Church—her men, women and children. Each of God's people are uniquely blessed and called to exercise their gifts for the common good of the Church. Our service to others is not based on a guilt-motivation, but comes from the “overflow” of knowing Christ and his ministry to us. We seek to help our membership identify and utilize their gifts so that all believers are “equipped” to do the work of ministry.

6) **THE CITY AND ITS CULTURE** Christ came to establish not simply a church, but a Kingdom. Too often the church has failed to distinguish the Church from the Kingdom. While the Church is within the Kingdom of God and God's primary extending agent of the Kingdom, the Kingdom encompasses a broader vision of ministry encompassing the totality of the city and its culture. This Kingdom work is not to be against the city, nor is it to condone, but seeks to transform both city and culture. As “Kingdom Saints” we believe that it is our responsibility to winsomely and realistically engage, San Antonio—its beauty and ugliness—all for the glory of Christ.

7) **OPENNESS AND WARMTH** This means we are committed to emulating Jesus in our manner as well as his Word. The church is for every kind of person from every kind of background. The church is meant to be an authentic and loving community both towards “insiders” and toward those who visit as “outsiders.” Therefore, everything we do must be done with humility, sensitivity and a listening ear to those who are not yet a part of us.

For further information about what Redeemer believes and our doctrinal convictions consult the Presbyterian Church in America's (PCA) website at www.pcanet.org.



EQUIPPING THE

The Principles of Gospel Transformation take root first and foremost in the community of faith, the church. Therefore, the first mission field of the church is the new community formed around the Lord Jesus. The equipping ministries of Redeemer serve the purpose of nurturing our members and regular attenders in the Gospel so that individuals and families engage their Kingdom responsibilities.

LEADERSHIP

As a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), Redeemer is committed to the form of church government that is Presbyterian or representative rule by **ELDERS**. The Senior Minister along with the Ruling Elders, comprise the **SESSION** and are responsible for the governance and spiritual oversight of Redeemer.

CHURCH

DEACONS are men elected by the congregation and are charged to lead the church in “deeds of mercy.” They minister to the tangible needs of the congregation and the city through organizing and modeling intentional acts of mercy and overseeing the collection and disbursements of church funds.

The **MINISTRY STAFF OF REDEEMER** reports to the Session and is under the leadership of our Senior Minister. The purpose of Redeemer’s ministry staff is to lead the church in her vision so that our members are built up in the Gospel and are equipped to do the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:11-12).

MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS are lay ministry leaders charged with organizing Redeemer’s membership in the many facets of our ministry.

SESSION

Tom Gibbs, Moderator
Clay Miller, Clerk of the Session
John Ames
John Fitch
Jeff Judson
Bowman Williams

DEACONS

Jake Gray, Chairman
Jason Register, Secretary
Bob George, Church Treasurer
Ken Harrison

MINISTERS & STAFF

Tom Gibbs, Senior Pastor
Brandon Eggar, Assistant Pastor of
Community Life & Outreach
Justin Clement, Reformed University
Fellowship Campus Minister
Brent Watkins, Director of Music Ministries
Krisanne Stolhandske, Director of
Children’s Ministries
Harriet Peavy, Office Administrator & Bookkeeper
Carri Jobe, Office Administrative Assistant

MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

Administrative Support, Harriet Peavy (930-4480)
Books & Media, Jim Faucett (602-0213)
Children’s Ministries,
Krisanne Stolhandske (930-4480)
Community Groups, Brandon Eggar (930-4480)
Community Life & Outreach,
Brandon Eggar (930-4480)
Local & World Missions, John Fitch (824-5973)
Men’s Ministries, Jeff Judson (822-1292)
Mercy & Financial Aid, Jake Gray (884-4729)
Music Ministries, Brent Watkins (930-4480)
Training in the Pews, Krisanne Stolhandske (930-4480)
Usher/Greeter Coordination,
Jason Register (829-0747)
Women’s Ministries, Mary Williams (930-5915),
Heather Card (467-5792)
Worship/Event Assistance, Ken Harrison (828-8864)
Youth Ministries, Patrick and Aubree Shay (383-0132)



W O R S H I P

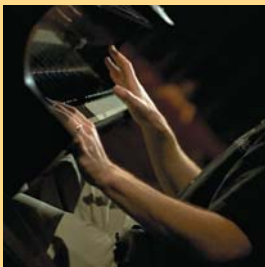
Worship is not simply a core value, it is Redeemer's first priority. However, the lines drawn to describe worship—traditional, contemporary and blended—are limited and do not capture the fullness that should characterize this sacred duty. While no terms are perfect, we say our worship strives to be characterized by truth and vibrancy.

BY TRUTH WE MEAN:

- **GOD-CENTERED & GOSPEL DRIVEN:** The central purpose of worship is connecting with the triune God. God is the infinite, holy and majestic Creator. God is also the ever-flowing fountain of grace and mercy. At the center of all true worship is the person and work of Christ. Worship regularly takes us back to the renewing message of grace in Christ found in the Gospel.
- **HISTORICALLY CONNECTED:** Redeemer recognizes the long history of true and vibrant worship by God's people through the ages. For this reason, we seek to draw upon the rich resources of those who have gone before us by making use of ancient hymns, creeds and liturgical forms.

BY VIBRANCY WE MEAN:

- **IN OUR TIME & OUR PLACE:** Redeemer realizes that while connected to the church historic, we are present day Christians. As a result, everything we do must recognize our contemporary context.
- **ENGAGING THE WHOLE PERSON:** True worship must be a dialogue between the worshipper and God. Redeemer's order of worship facilitates such meaningful participation to address the central concerns in a person's life. When worship engages the whole of life, our false objects of worship—money, careers, approval, achievements, power and relationships—are exposed and redirected to the person of true worship.



SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The School of Christian Education is an integral facet of Redeemer's overall ministry of Gospel Transformation. Its purpose is to aid our church's growth in the freedom of the Gospel by focusing on the foundations and essentials of the Christian life, exploring Redeemer's vision and equipping individuals to exercise their gifts in ministry, and training and developing new ministry leaders and officers. Courses are offered in training blocks in a variety of contexts rather than in a programmatic approach on Sunday mornings.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Community groups are small fellowships of six to twelve people meeting in homes, apartments and restaurants throughout San Antonio. They are the first place where we hope people turn for applying the gospel to their lives and forging the relationships rooted in a pursuit of Jesus. Community groups are more than just Bible, book or topic studies. We recognize that maturing in the Christian life is more than informational; it is transformation through relationships. Members are also encouraged to use this ministry for outreach by bringing new people to experience God's love through his people.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

The Kingdom of God values children—those most vulnerable in our midst. God has chosen to work through the institution of families as a primary means by which the treasure of the Gospel is passed on. As a result Children's Ministries at Redeemer is one of our highest priorities. We want to help your children learn about Christ, his redeeming love, and our great need for him in our lives as Savior and Lord.



Redeemer is committed to continually equipping our children through Training in the Pews (ages 3–5) and Christian Education (2 years old – 6th grade). A Communicants Seminar is available for children who are ready to become communing members of Redeemer to help them understand the essential elements of their faith and what it means to be a part of the body of Christ.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Redeemer Youth Ministries seek to engage youth (grades 7th–12th) with the truths of the Gospel in an intelligible way, all in the context of meaningful parental and peer relationships. It is our desire that youth not simply have another activity on their schedule, but that they be encouraged and strengthened in the realities of Gospel freedom.

MEN'S & WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

The Men's and Women's Ministries provide both Bible study and an energetic source of community life. Throughout the year, both ministries host fellowship nights, retreats, and seminars to rejuvenate and encourage the Redeemer men and women. Check the schedule for meeting times and places of Bible studies.

Redeemer has adopted a bold vision of Gospel advancement, which seeks to resource a broad range of Kingdom ministry to transform San Antonio. For this reason, Redeemer envisions growing into a congregation of 1000 members. Redeemer remains committed to the Gospel call of grace going out so that...

- **THE SPIRITUALLY HUNGRY**—starved for Biblical instruction, joy and freedom—are called to growth, maturity, and service for Christ.
- **ALL BURNT OUT, WOUNDED, LEGALISTS AND PRODIGALS** are beckoned to renewal and revival through the love and forgiveness of Christ.
- **SEEKERS, SKEPTICS AND SPIRITUAL WANDERERS** find new life in Christ and purpose for the future.
- **BRIDGES ARE BUILT TO THE URBAN AND PROFESSIONAL HISPANIC COMMUNITY** so that the Redeemer community increasingly looks like and resources ministry indigenous to San Antonio.

The following represent key areas of ministry focus designed to touch our city with the transforming message of the Gospel.

TRANSFORMING

PERMANENCE

Redeemer Presbyterian Church enjoys a wonderful, long-term relationship to San Antonio College and McAllister Fine Arts Center, which enables us to engage the whole city of San Antonio and grow towards our vision. Even so, Redeemer seeks to acquire permanent space within the Loop 410 corridor on the north side to serve as a base for Gospel-engagement with the city.

CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT

Building on our *Christianity and Contemporary Culture Conference*, Redeemer seeks to engage San Antonio's arts, business, professional, and university communities with

the Gospel in tangible and relevant ways, which ripple outward in blessing to the city. "When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices" (Proverbs 11:10).

CHURCH-PLANTING MOVEMENT

Redeemer's commitment to church planting is evident already through our partnerships with church plants in the Boerne and San Marcos areas. Recognizing that church planting is the most effective way to reach people for Christ, we envision launching several new church developments in San Antonio.



HISPANIC EMPHASIS

San Antonio is home to a unique blend of cultures. Redeemer desires to see the message of Gospel Freedom extended to non-English speakers and immigrant families. By recruiting a full time pastor to minister to the particular needs of our Hispanic residents, we hope to embody a church that is for the nations.

WEST SIDE INITIATIVES

Our Hispanic emphasis is evident through our west side initiatives, including the Redeemer Christmas Basket ministry, service at the Tobin and Guadalupe Centers and partnering with the Agape Pregnancy Center. By working with organizations already in San Antonio, Redeemer is able to bring Vacation Bible School,

THE CITY



Chess Club, tutoring, assistance during crisis pregnancies and gifts of benevolence to our friends in urban San Antonio. As our presence in this area grows, we look for more opportunities to communicate the heart of God's kingdom to this important part of San Antonio.

UNIVERSITY MINISTRIES

San Antonio is home to four thriving universities and a network of community colleges. Reformed University Fellowship (RUF), the PCA official campus ministry, seeks to reach students for Christ and equip them to serve in our churches. Redeemer recently launched the RUF chapter at Trinity University under the leadership of Justin Clement.



IMPACTING THE

Acts 1:8 says, "...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Redeemer recognizes our responsibility to engage the world with the Gospel. Our "Jerusalem" is San Antonio. As a church we are looking south, so our "Judea" is Texas, the Valley and the larger United States. Our "Samaria" is Latin America.

The "end of the earth" encompasses the remainder of our mission field. Redeemer envisions eventually giving away 50% of our income towards ministries touching the city and the world.

In addition to finances and prayer, Redeemer's commitment to missions is actualized through **short-term mission trips**. By visiting and serving with the teams already in place in South Texas, Latin America, and the world, we hope to encourage and lend extra hands on the field. Redeemer regularly sends teams to the Texas/Mexico border, Belize and Peru.

Missions that Redeemer currently supports:

TEXAS & THE VALLEY

- Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) and Reformed University Fellowship International (RUFi):
 - Justin and Elizabeth Clement at Trinity University
 - Benjie and Natalie Slaton at University of Texas
 - Derick and Lisal McDonald at University of Texas
 - Ryan and Bonnie Greene at Texas A&M University
 - Pat and Ashley Roach at Rice University
- Gene and LuAnn Bowman of BEAMM (Border Evangelism and Mercy Ministries) on the Texas/Mexico border
- Numerous new church developments in the Valley

UNITED STATES

Redeemer is part of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), one of the fastest growing denominations in the country. Redeemer actively supports the work of the PCA:

- Through the ministries of Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) the PCA reaches university students where they are, encouraging them to integrate their lives and faith.
- Through Covenant College in Lookout Mountain, GA, and Covenant Seminary in St. Louis, MO, the next generation of leaders is equipped for lives rooted in the Scriptures with a view to impacting the culture.
- Through Mission to North America (MNA), the PCA is committed to seeing churches planted and growing across the nation through strong church-planting networks.

LATIN AMERICA

- Bill and Jeanine Allen (MTW) in Cuzco, Peru
- Peter Dishman (RUF) in Mexico City, Mexico
- John and Heather Ferguson (RUF) in Trujillo, Peru
- Paul and Dawn Fisher (MTW) in Guadalajara, Mexico
- Cornerstone School in Belize

WORLD

- Doug and Masha Shepherd (MTW) in Ukraine
- Family (Wycliffe Bible Translators) in Southeast Asia

WORLD

OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE THE VISION



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Every Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. Redeemer gathers for corporate worship to receive from and adore our triune God at the McAllister Fine Arts Center on the campus of San Antonio College at the corner of San Pedro Avenue and West Courtland. (See map on back.)

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Community groups are in place for members and non-members to experience the warmth of fellowship with God's people. It is our desire that everyone who worships with us on Sunday will also be a part of a community group. By strengthening the community of Redeemer we hope that the vision will grow deeper into our lives, and wider as we share it with each other.

NEWCOMERS DESSERT

On the first Tuesday of every other month Tom and Tara Gibbs open their home to those who are interested in learning more about the vision of the church and how they can be a part of it. It is time for questions and fellowship in a casual, social atmosphere aimed at discussion.

INTRO TO REDEEMER

This introductory class is required for membership. It further unpacks and explains the vision, distinctives, and philosophy of ministry so that every member of Redeemer will have a clear understanding of where we are headed, why we are headed there and how we are prepared to include them.

MINISTRY TEAMS

Every member of Redeemer fills out a survey to assess their interests so that we can plug them into a ministry team. We expect every person who calls Redeemer their home to be actively involved in the work of the church. Serving on these teams furthers Redeemer's vision of a vital community of believers united in the Gospel and their desire to see it equipping the church, transforming the city and impacting the world.

For more information, call the church office at 930-4480 or consult www.redeemersa.org.



MEETING AT:

McAllister Fine Arts Center on the campus of San Antonio College,
located in the 1400 block of San Pedro Avenue at West Courtland.

Worship on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.



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